

Final Public Meeting

September 24, 2015

Location: CE&H Ruritan Hall, 8881 Eclipse Drive, Suffolk, VA 23434

Start: 6:00 pm

End: 7:00 pm

Kristie Britt-DEQ/TRO, Ram Gupta-DEQ/CO, Dinah Oliver-DEQ/TRO, Jim Winters-NRPA, Elizabeth Taraski-NRPA, David Basnett- NRPA, Karla Smith – NRPA, Mike Reiss- NRPA, Erin Rountree-Suffolk Public Works, David A. Kuzma-Isle of Wight, Albert Moon- Suffolk Public Works, Patricia and Don Boyd - Citizens, Bill Rogers – Citizen

- Welcome and Introductions
- Purpose of Meeting
- Review of TMDL and IP Development

A presentation was delivered to review information related to the Implementation Plan. Topics covered included VDH water sampling for fecal coliform, potential bacterial sources, TMDLs and the development of an Implementation Plan, Best Management Practices (BMPs), timeline of implementation plan, and funding sources.

- Best Management Practices Overview

- Agricultural

Phase 1 Livestock Exclusion: Concern over who will cover the cost of \$15,000. DEQ representatives explained that the cost of eligible practices is shared under the Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share Program.

Grass Strips: Requested explanation of why grass strips are beneficial. Grass filter strips are vegetative buffers that are located along the banks of water courses to filter runoff and soil particles and to protect banks against scour and erosion. Even the best conservation measures on a farm allow some soil movement during heavy rains. Filter strips are the stream's last line of defense against pollution. Since filter strips trap eroded soil, they help keep sediment out of streams. The strips also improve water quality by filtering out fertilizers, pesticides, and microorganisms that otherwise might reach waterways.

-Septic and Marina Boat Discharge

Marine Vessel Regulation: Community representative suggested that DEQ add in language regarding DGIF and their vessel regulations. DEQ representatives acknowledged this information and will review.

RESPONSE: Additional wording can be added to the text of the reports under Educational Programs (new text in red)

Outreach to recreational boaters that use the public boat ramps and marinas in the watersheds along with other boaters that may enter the creek for recreational purposes is an important element of this plan. The focus of this educational effort will be to inform boaters about the availability of sanitary pump out facilities in the area and the detrimental impact that overboard discharge of human waste can have on water quality. This education program should also inform boaters about HRSD's Boat Pump Out Program (<http://www.hrsd.com/boatereducationproject.shtml>). Appointments for pump outs using this program can be made via phone or email. Funding for recreational boater education should include money for signs at marinas, boat ramps, boat refueling areas, and other boat related facilities. These signs should include information about HRSD's Boat Pump Out Program and any local sanitary pump out facilities in the watershed.

Additionally, this educational effort may be in cooperation with DEQ's efforts to have Virginia's tidal creeks designated as No-Discharge Zones.

No Discharge Zones in Virginia

Recognizing the need to minimize the potential for contamination from any and all sources in these sensitive areas, the Virginia General Assembly unanimously passed House Bill 1774 in February, 2009. The Bill resolves that Virginia pursue NDZ designation for all its tidal creeks. (<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/ndz.html>)

This designation would further restrict vessels from discharging wastes even after the wastes have been treated by approved marine sanitation devices.

According to the VADGIF Equipment Regulations, "vessels with installed toilets and marine sanitation devices shall be in compliance with federal regulations which set standards for sewage discharges from marine sanitation devices. Vessels without installed toilets or without installed marine sanitation devices shall not directly or indirectly discharge sewage into state waters. Sewage and other wastes from self-contained, portable toilets or other containment devices shall be pumped out at pump-out facilities or carried ashore for treatment in facilities approved by the Virginia Department of Health."

-Residential

-Pet Waste

Station Locations: Community representative asked where the exact locations of the pet waste stations within each suggested

area were located. The map provided in the plan shows locations which include Lone Star Lakes, Docks in Eclipse and at the Pet Daycare Center. DEQ representatives explained there are 7 stations proposed in the plan which can be placed at varying locations within the proposed areas of interest.

-Education

➤ Timeline

Years 1-2

- Residential education – focus on septic maintenance, pet waste management, and nuisance wildlife control

Years 3-4

- Residential education – focus on pet waste (composters distributed), vegetated buffers, and rain gardens
- Livestock exclusion and grazing system BMPs

Years 5-6

- Recreational boater and aquaculture education program
- Pet waste stations and additional agricultural BMPs

Years 7-8

- Residential and woodland buffer installation/rain garden installation
- Boat pump-out facility

Years 9-10

- Complete any remaining BMPs or education programs still needed

➤ Roles and Responsibilities

A community representative requested to include "City" under Implementation Responsibility for the Practice of Public Pet Waste Collection Facility/Signage/Supplies

RESPONSE: : Throughout the table, the word "Counties" has been changed to "City & County" to reflect both the City of Suffolk and Isle of Wight County.

➤ Funding

➤ Questions/Comments

At the end of the meeting, a question was asked about the execution of the plan. DEQ representatives explained the progression of additional meetings required before a 30 day public comment period and submission to EPA for approval. Once EPA has approved the plan it is

eligible for 319 nonpoint source funding, which means that local stakeholders would be able to apply for the funding the next time a request for applications is issued. The nonpoint source funding cannot be used to satisfy any permit conditions (i.e. MS4 permits), as it is only allotted for addressing unpermitted nonpoint sources in the watershed.

30-Day Public Comment Period: September 25 – October 26

➤ Additional Information

Virginia Agricultural Cost-Share (VACS) BMP Manual

<http://dswcapps.dcr.virginia.gov/htdocs/agbmpman/csmanual.pdf>

DGIF Marine Sanitation Guidelines

http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/wog/equipment-regulations.asp#Marine_Sanitation_Devices

DEQ TMDLs

<http://www.deq.state.va.us/programs/water/waterqualityinformationtmdls/tmdl.aspx>

DEQ VEGIS Map Viewer

http://www.deq.state.va.us/mapper_ext/default.aspx?service=public/wimby